

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, September 28, 2013*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.

Today, it is \$16,738,443,175,473.97. We've added \$6,111,566,126,560.89 to our debt in 5 years. This is \$6.1 trillion in debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

## EXPRESSING THE SENSE THAT THERE SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED A NATIONAL AMERICANS OF AFRICAN IMMIGRANT HERITAGE MONTH (AFRICAN IMMIGRANT HERITAGE MONTH)

**HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, September 28, 2013*

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize September as National Americans of African Immigrant Heritage Month and to celebrate the significant contributions of Americans of African Immigrant Heritage who have enriched the history of the United States:

Whereas, people of recent African immigrant heritage are found in every State of the Union;

Whereas, the history of Americans of African Immigrant Heritage in the United States is inextricably tied to the story of the United States;

Whereas, the community of Americans of African immigrant heritage is an inherently diverse population comprised of more than 45 distinct ethnicities and more than 500 language dialects;

Whereas, Americans of African immigrant heritage in the United States come from all regions in Africa and do not constitute a homogeneous group, including people from different national, linguistic, ethnic, racial, cultural and social backgrounds;

Whereas, Americans of African immigrant heritage came to the United States voluntarily, and are distinct from African Americans, the latter of whom are descendants of mostly West and Central Africans who were involuntarily brought to the United States by means of the historic Atlantic slave trade;

Whereas, the month of September has been celebrated by the Africans of Montgomery County, Maryland since 2008, because, African Union Day is on September 9th;

Whereas, recent African immigrants have made significant contributions to American culture such as having high educational and income levels, as well as contributing to many

areas of American life such as the military, health-care, arts, education, community service and public policy; and

Whereas, raising awareness about African immigrant heritage is crucial to effectively fighting disparities within the greater Black population in the American narrative and is essential to building a stronger community and a stronger America; and

Whereas, during the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, a significant number of slaves from Africa region were brought to the United States;

Whereas, African immigrants from Cape Verde first came to the United States in the 1790s, The Cape Verdean immigrants arrived aboard New England whaling ships, which would often pick up crewmen off the coast of Cape Verde in Africa and their descendants include the legendary Lena Home and sailors who fought in the Union Navy;

Whereas, In 1922, the US government restricted the immigration of peoples of color, greatly reducing Cape Verdean immigration. The new regulations also prevented Cape Verdean Americans from visiting Africa for fear of being denied reentry into the United States;

Whereas, In the 1960s to 1970s, due to the more racially inclusive regulations of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, more African immigrants from across the continent came to the US primarily as students;

Whereas, In the 1980s and 1990s, Africans in the US were primarily refugees, who were fleeing hardships from countries such as Ethiopia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan;

Whereas, In the 2000s Africans in the US were primarily beneficiaries of the highly popular State Department program known as the Diversity Visa lottery program;

Whereas, much like the United States, the countries in Africa faced obstacles of in country-slavery and colonialism and struggled for independence;

Whereas, the independence movements in many countries in Africa during the 1960s and the consequential establishment of independent democratic countries in Africa strengthened ties between the region and the United States;

Whereas, there have been many influential Americans of recent African immigrant heritage in the history of the United States, including in Academia: Jem Spectar, Elfatih A.B. Eltahir, Ahmed Zewail;

Whereas, there have been many achievements of Americans of recent African immigrant descent in sports, which include: Betty Okino, Yoakim Noah, Hakeem Olajuwon, Ndamukong Suh, Luc Mbah a Moute, Freddy Adu, Alfred Aboya;

Whereas, there have been many achievements of Americans of recent African immigrant descent in the arts, which include: Akon, Charliize Theron, Dave Matthews, Djimon Hounsou, Karine Plantadit, Idris Elba, Wale, and Anika Noni Ross;

Whereas, there have been many achievements of Americans of recent African immigrant descent in media, which include: Sade

Baderinwa, Yves Bollanga, Lola Ogunnaike, Pamela Anchang, Celestin Ngoa, Omoyele Sowore;

Whereas, there have been many achievements of Americans of recent African immigrant descent in fashion, which include: Imam, Kibonen Nfi, Oluchi, Bertini Wandja Heumegni, Liya Kebede, BeBe Zahara Benet, and Bertrand Fote;

Whereas, there have been many achievements of Americans of recent African immigrant descent who are successful entrepreneurs, which include: Jessica Matthews, Kase Lukman Lawal, Christopher Che, Elon Musk, and Noah A. Samara;

Whereas, there have been many achievements of Americans of recent African immigrant descent in government, such as Members of the Montgomery County Executive's African Advisory Group (MD), Washington, DC Mayor's Commission of African Affairs, the Newark Mayor's African Commission (NJ the Philadelphia Mayor's African and Caribbean Commission (PA), the Bronx Borough President's African Advisory Council (NY), Council Member Edoaurd Haba, and Judge Nina Ashenafi Richardson;

Whereas, there have been many achievements of Americans of recent African immigrant descent as African immigrant activists, which include: Tsehaye Teferra of Ethiopian Community and Development Center and Sylvie Bello of Cameroon American Council;

Whereas, the 44th President of the United States, Barack Hussein Obama, is of Kenyan descent;

Whereas, Americans of recent African immigrant heritage have played an active role in the civil rights movement and other social and political movements in the United States;

Whereas, Americans of recent African immigrant heritage have contributed greatly to education, fine arts, business, literature, journalism, sports, fashion, politics, government, the military, music, science, technology, and other areas in the United States;

Whereas, Americans of recent African immigrant heritage share their culture through art, fashion, festivals, music, dance, film, and literature that enrich the cultural landscape of the United States;

Whereas, the countries in Africa are important economic partners of the United States;

Whereas, the people of Africa share the hopes and aspirations of the people of the United States for peace and prosperity throughout the world;

Whereas, there remains much to be done to ensure that Americans of recent African immigrant heritage have access to resources and a voice in the Government of the United States and continue to advance in the political, social, and economic landscape of the United States;

Whereas, celebrating African Immigrant Heritage Month provides the people of the United States with an opportunity to recognize the achievements, contributions, and history of and to appreciate the challenges faced by Americans of recent African immigrant heritage; and

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.